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PART III.

Acts of the Governor General of India in Council, &c.

The following Act of the Governor General of India in Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor General on the 15th March 1878, and is hereby promulgated for general information :—

ACT NO. XI OF 1878.

THE INDIAN ARMS ACT, 1878.

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THE FIRST SCHEDULE.
THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to Arms, Ammunition and Military Stores.

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to arms, ammunition and military stores; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Preamble.

I.—Preliminary.

Short title. 1. This Act may be called "The Indian Arms Act, 1878": and

Local extent. it extends to the whole of British India.

Savings. But nothing herein contained shall apply to—

(*a*) arms, ammunition, or military stores on board any sea-going vessel and forming part of her ordinary armament or equipment, or

(*b*) the manufacture, conversion, sale, import, export, transport, bearing or possession of arms, ammunition or military stores by order of the Government, or by a public servant or a volunteer enrolled under the Indian Volunteers Act, 1869, in the course of his duty as such public servant or volunteer.

Commencement. 2. This Act shall come into force on such day as the Governor General in Council by notification in the *Gazette of India* appoints.

Repeal of enactments. 3. On and from that day the enactments mentioned in the first schedule hereto annexed shall be repealed to the extent specified in the third column of the said schedule.

But all authorities and permissions given, licenses and exemptions granted, orders and appointments made, notifications published, and rules, conditions, and forms prescribed under any enactment hereby repealed shall be deemed to be respectively given, granted, made, published and prescribed under this Act.

And all such authorities, permissions, licenses and exemptions shall, except as otherwise provided by this Act, continue in force for the periods for which they may have been given or granted respectively, or, where no such period is expressly fixed, for one year from the date on which this Act comes into force, and shall then cease to have effect.

Interpretation-clause. 4. In this Act unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context—

"Cannon" includes also all howitzers, mortars, wall pieces, mitrailleuses and other ordnance and machine-guns, all parts of the same, and all carriages, platforms and appliances for mounting, transmitting and serving the same :

"Arms" includes fire-arms, bayonets, swords, daggers, spears, spear-heads and bows and arrows, also cannon and parts of arms, and machinery for manufacturing arms :

"Ammunition" includes also all articles specially designed for torpedo service and submarine mining, rockets, guncotton, dynamite, lithofracteur and other explosive or fulminating material, gunflints, gunwads, percussion caps, fuses, and friction tubes, all parts of ammunition and all machinery for manufacturing ammunition, but does not include lead, sulphur or saltpetre :

"Military stores" in any section of this Act as applied to any part of British India means any military stores to which the Governor General in Council may from time to time by notification in the *Gazette of India* specially extend such section in such part, and includes also all lead, sulphur, saltpetre and other material to which the Governor General in Council may from time to time so extend such section :

"License" means a license granted under this Act, and "licensed" means holding such license.

II.—Manufacture, Conversion and Sale.

Unlicensed manufacture, conversion and sale prohibited.

5. No person shall manufacture, convert, or sell, or keep, offer or expose for sale, any arms, ammunition or military stores except under a license and in the manner and to the extent permitted thereby.

Nothing herein contained shall prevent any person from selling any arms or ammunition which he lawfully possesses for his own private use to any person who is not by any enactment for the time being in force prohibited from possessing the same ; but every person so selling arms or ammunition to any person other than a person entitled to possess the same by reason of an exemption under section twenty-seven of this Act shall, without unnecessary delay, give to the Magistrate of the district or to the officer in charge of the nearest police-station notice of the sale and of the purchaser's name and address.

III.—Import, Export and Transport.

Unlicensed importation and exportation prohibited.

6. No person shall bring or take by sea or by land into or out of British India any arms, ammunition or military stores except under a license and in the manner and to the extent permitted by such license.

Importation and exportation of arms and ammunition for private use.

Nothing in the first clause of this section extends to arms (other than cannon) or ammunition imported or exported in reasonable quantities for his own private use by any person lawfully entitled to possess such arms or ammunition ; but the Collector of Customs or any other officer empowered by the Local Government in this behalf by name or in virtue of his office may at any time detain such arms or ammunition until he receives the orders of the Local Government thereon.

Explanation.—Arms, ammunition and military stores taken from one part of British India to another by sea or across intervening territory not being part of British India are taken out of and brought into British India within the meaning of this section.

Sanction of Local Government required to warehousing of arms, &c.

7. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Sea-customs Act, 1878, no arms, ammunition or military stores shall be deposited in any warehouse licensed under section 16 of that Act without the sanction of the Local Government.

Levy of duties on arms, &c., imported by sea.

8. In lieu of the duties imposed by the Indian Tariff Act, 1875, upon the articles mentioned in the second schedule hereto annexed when imported by sea, there shall be levied and collected, in every part of British India, upon the same articles the duties specified in the same schedule :

Provided that no duty in excess of 10 per cent *ad valorem* shall be levied upon any of the said articles imported in reasonable quantity for his own private use by any person lawfully entitled to possess the same :

Provided also that when any articles which have been otherwise imported and upon which duty has been levied or is leviable under this section are purchased retail from the importer by a person lawfully entitled as aforesaid, in reasonable quantity for his own private use, the importer may apply to the

Customs-collector for a refund or remission (as the case may be) of so much of the duty thereon as is in excess of ten per cent *ad valorem*; and if such collector is satisfied as to the identity of the article and that such importer is in other respects entitled to such refund or remission, he shall grant the same accordingly.

Power to impose duty on import by land.

9. The Governor General in Council may from time to time by notification in the *Gazette of India* direct that duties not exceeding those specified in second schedule hereto annexed shall be levied upon any articles mentioned in that schedule and brought by land into any part of British India, and may in like manner cancel any such notification.

Power to prohibit transport.

10. The Governor General in Council may from time to time by notification in the *Gazette of India*—

(*a*) regulate or prohibit the transport of any description of arms, ammunition or military stores over the whole of British India or any part thereof, either altogether or except under a license and to the extent and in the manner permitted by such license, and

(*b*) cancel any such notification.

Transhipment of arms.

Explanation.—Arms, ammunition or military stores transhipped at a port in British India are transported within the meaning of this section.

Power to establish searching stations.

11. The Local Government with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council may, at any places along the boundary line between British India and Foreign territory and at such distance within such line as it deems expedient, establish searching posts at which all vessels, carts and baggage animals and all boxes, bales and packages in transit may be stopped and searched for arms, ammunition and military stores by any officer empowered by such Government in this behalf by name or in virtue of his office.

Arrest of persons conveying arms, &c., under suspicious circumstances.

12. When any person is found carrying or conveying any arms, ammunition or military stores whether covered by a license or not, in such manner or under such circumstances as to afford just grounds of suspicion that the same are being carried by him with intent to use them, or that the same may be used for any unlawful purpose, any person may without warrant apprehend him and take such arms, ammunition or military stores from him.

Procedure where arrest made by person not a Magistrate or a Police-officer.

Any person so apprehended and any arms, ammunition or military stores so taken by a person not being a Magistrate or Police-officer shall be delivered over as soon as possible to a Police-officer.

All persons apprehended by, or delivered to, a Police-officer and all arms and ammunition seized by or delivered to any such officer under this section shall be taken without unnecessary delay before a Magistrate.

IV.—Going armed and possessing Arms, &c.

Prohibition of going armed without license.

13. No person shall go armed with any arms except under a license and to the extent and in the manner permitted thereby.

Any person so going armed without a license or in contravention of its provisions may be disarmed by any Magistrate, Police-officer or other person empowered by the Local Government in this behalf by name or by virtue of his office.

Unlicensed possession of fire-arms, &c.

14. No person shall have in his possession or under his control any cannon or fire-arms, or any ammunition or military stores except under a license and in the manner and to the extent permitted thereby.

During the three months next following the date on which this Act comes into force nothing in the former part of this section shall apply to the possession by any person of any fire-arms, ammunition or military stores in any place to which section 32, clause 2, of Act No. XXXI of 1860 does not apply at such date.

Any person having within the said period of three months any fire-arms, ammunition or military stores in his possession in any such place may, and any person having at the expiry of the same period any fire-arms, ammunition or military stores in his possession in any such place without a license shall, deposit the same with the officer in charge of the nearest police-station.

VI.—Penalties.

For breach of sections 5, 6, 10, 13 to 17.

19. Whoever commits any of the following offences (namely)—

(*a*) manufactures, converts or sells, or keeps, offers or exposes for sale any arms, ammunition or military stores in contravention of the provisions of section five ;

(*b*) fails to give notice as required by the same section ;

(*c*) imports or exports any arms, ammunition or military stores in contravention of the provisions of section six ;

(*d*) transports any arms, ammunition or military stores in contravention of a regulation or prohibition issued under section 10 ;

(*e*) goes armed in contravention of the provisions of section thirteen ;

(*f*) has in his possession or under his control any arms, ammunition or military stores in contravention of the provisions of section fourteen or section fifteen ;

(*g*) intentionally makes any false entry in a record or account which by a rule made under section seventeen, clause (*c*), he is required to keep ;

(*h*) intentionally fails to exhibit anything which by a rule made under section seventeen, clause (*e*), he is required to exhibit ; or

(*i*) fails to deposit arms, ammunition or military stores, as required by section fourteen or section sixteen ;

shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

For secret breaches of sections 5, 6, 10, 14 and 15.

20. Whoever does any act mentioned in clause (*a*) (*c*) (*d*) or (*f*) of section nineteen, in such manner as to indicate an intention that such act may not be known to any public servant as defined in the Indian Penal Code, or to any person employed upon a Railway or to the servant of any public carrier,

For concealing arms, &c.

and whoever, on any search being made under section twenty-five, conceals or attempts to conceal any arms, ammunition or military stores,

shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both.

For breach of license.

21. Whoever, in violation of a condition subject to which a license has been granted, does or omits to do any act shall, when the doing or omitting to do such act is not punishable under section nineteen or section twenty, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

For knowingly purchasing arms, &c., from unlicensed person.

For delivering arms, &c., to person not authorized to possess them.

22. Whoever knowingly purchases any arms, ammunition or military stores from any person not licensed or authorized under the proviso to section five to sell the same ; or delivers any arms, ammunition or military stores into the possession of any person without previously ascertaining that such person is legally authorized to possess the same,

shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

Penalty for breach of rule.

23. Any person violating any rule made under this Act, and for the violation of which no penalty is provided by this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both.

If the owner of any thing deposited under this section does not, within the year next following the date on which this Act comes into force, obtain a license authorizing him to possess such thing and apply for delivery of the same, such thing shall be forfeited to Her Majesty.

Possession of arms of any description without license prohibited in certain places.

15. In any place to which section 32, clause 2 of Act No. XXXI of 1860, applies at the time this Act comes into force or to which the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, may, by notification in the local official Gazette, specially extend this section, no person shall have in his possession any arms of any description except under a license and in the manner and to the extent permitted thereby.

Arms of which possession has become unlawful to be deposited at police station.

16. Any person possessing arms, ammunition or military stores, the possession whereof by him has, in consequence of the cancellation or expiry of a license or by the issue of a notification under section fifteen, become unlawful, shall deposit the same without unnecessary delay with the officer in charge of the nearest police-station.

If the owner of any thing deposited under this section does not within three years from the date on which such thing is so deposited produce a license authorizing him to possess the same and apply for delivery of the same, such thing shall be forfeited to Her Majesty.

V.--Licenses.

Power to make rules as to licenses.

17. The Governor General in Council may from time to time, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, make rules to determine the officers by whom, the form in which, and the terms and conditions on and subject to which, any license shall be granted; and may by such rules among other matters—

(*a*) fix the period for which such license shall continue in force :

(*b*) fix a fee payable by stamp or otherwise in respect of any such license granted in a place to which section 32, clause 2, of Act No. XXXI of 1860 applies at the time this Act comes into force, or in respect of any such license other than a license for possession granted in any other place ;

(*c*) direct that the holder of any such license other than a license for possession shall keep a record or account in such form as the Local Government may prescribe of anything done under such license, and exhibit such record or account when called upon by an officer of Government to do so ;

(*d*) empower any officer of Government to enter and inspect any premises in which arms, ammunition or military stores are manufactured or kept by any person holding a license of the description referred to in section five or section six ;

(*e*) direct that any such person shall exhibit the entire stock of arms, ammunition and military stores in his possession or under his control to any officer of Government so empowered, and

(*f*) require the person holding any license or acting under any license to produce the same, and to produce or account for the arms, ammunition or military stores covered by the same when called upon by an officer of Government so to do.

Cancelling and suspension of license.

18. Any license may be cancelled or suspended—

(*a*) by the officer by whom the same was granted, or by any authority to which he may be subordinate, or by any Magistrate of a district or Commissioner of police in a presidency town, within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the holder of such license may be, when, for reasons to be recorded in writing, such officer, authority, Magistrate or Commissioner deems it necessary for the security of the public peace to cancel or suspend such license ; or

(*b*) by any Judge or Magistrate before whom the holder of such license is convicted of an offence against this Act, or against the rules made under this Act ; and

the Local Government may at its discretion by a notification in the local official Gazette cancel or suspend all or any licenses throughout the whole or any portion of the territories under its administration.

24. When any person is convicted of an offence punishable under this Act committed by him in respect of any arms, ammunition or military stores, it shall be in the discretion of the convicting Court or Magistrate further to direct that the whole or any portion of such arms, ammunition or military stores, and any vessel, cart or baggage animal used to convey the same, and any box, package or bale in which the same may have been concealed, together with the other contents of such box, package or bale, shall be confiscated.

Power to confiscate.

VII.—Miscellaneous.

25. Whenever any Magistrate has reason to believe that any person residing within the local limits of his jurisdiction has in his possession any arms, ammunition or military stores for any unlawful purpose,

Search and seizure by Magistrate.

or that such person cannot be left in the possession of any such arms, ammunition or military stores without danger to the public peace,

such Magistrate, having first recorded the grounds of his belief, may cause a search to be made of the house or premises occupied by such person, or in which such Magistrate has reason to believe such arms, ammunition or military stores are or is to be found, and may seize and detain the same, although covered by a license, in safe custody for such time as he thinks necessary.

The search in such case shall be conducted by, or in the presence of, a Magistrate or by or in the presence of some officer, specially empowered in this behalf by name or in virtue of his office by the Local Government.

26. The Local Government may at any time order or cause to be seized any arms, ammunition or military stores in the possession of any person, notwithstanding that such person is licensed to possess the same, and may detain the same for such time as it thinks necessary for the public safety.

Seizure and detention by Local Government.

27. The Governor General in Council may from time to time by notification published in the *Gazette of India*—

Power to exempt.

(*a*) exempt any person by name or in virtue of his office or any class of persons or exclude any description of arms or ammunition or withdraw any part of British India, from the operation of any prohibition or direction contained in this Act; and

(*b*) cancel any such notification and again subject the persons or things or the part of British India comprised therein to the operation of such prohibition or direction.

28. Every person aware of the commission of any offence punishable under this Act, shall, in the absence of reasonable excuse, the burden of proving which shall lie upon such person, give information of the same to the nearest Police-officer or Magistrate, and

Information to be given regarding offences.

every person employed upon any railway or by any public carrier shall, in the absence of reasonable excuse, the burden of proving which shall lie upon such person, give information to the nearest Police-officer regarding any box, package or bale in transit which he may have reason to suspect contains arms, ammunition or military stores in respect of which an offence against this Act has been or is being committed.

29. Where an offence punishable under section nineteen, clause (*f*), has been committed within three months from the date on which this Act comes into force in any province, district or place to which section 32, clause 2 of Act XXXI of 1860 applies at such date, or where such an offence has been committed in any part of British India not being such a district, province or place, no proceedings shall be instituted against any person in respect of such offence without the previous sanction of the Magistrate of the District or in a presidency town of the Commissioner of Police.

Sanction required to certain proceedings under section 19, cl. (*f*).

30. Where a search is to be made under the Code of Criminal Procedure or the Presidency Magistrates Act 1877 in the course of any proceedings instituted in respect of an offence punishable under section nineteen, clause (*f*), such search shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the said Code or Act, be made in the presence of some officer specially appointed by name or in virtue of his office by the Local Government in this behalf, and not otherwise.

Searches in the case of offences against section 19, cl. (*f*), how conducted.

31. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to prevent any person from being prosecuted under any other law for any act or omission which constitutes an offence against this Act or the rules made under it, or from being liable under such other law to any higher punishment or penalty than that provided by this Act: Provided that no person shall be punished twice for the same offence.

Operation of other laws not barred.

32. The Local Government may, from time to time by notification in the local official Gazette, direct a census to be taken of all fire-arms in any local area, and empower any person by name or in virtue of his office to take such census.

Power to take census of fire-arms.

On the issue of any such notification, all persons possessing any such arms in such area shall furnish to the person so empowered such information as he may require in reference thereto, and shall produce such arms to him if he so requires.

Any person refusing or neglecting to produce any such arms when so required, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both.

33. No proceeding other than a suit shall be commenced against any person for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, without having given him at least one month's previous notice in writing of the intended proceeding and of the cause thereof, nor after the expiration of three months from the accrual of such cause.

Notice and limitation of proceedings.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE.

Number and year.	Title.	Extent of repeal.
XVIII of 1841	An Act for consolidating and amending the enactments concerning the exportation of Military Stores.	So much as has not been repealed.
XXX of 1854	An Act to provide for the levy of duties of Customs in the Arracan, Pegu, Martaban and Tenasserim Provinces.	In the preamble the words "and that the exportation of Ammunitions of war from any of these Provinces into foreign States should be prohibited." Section 11.
XXXI of 1860	An Act relating to the manufacture, importation and sale of Arms and Ammunition, and for regulating the right to keep and use the same and to give power of disarming in certain cases.	So much as has not been repealed.
VI of 1866	An Act to continue Act No. XXXI of 1860 (relating to the manufacture, importation and sale of Arms and Ammunition and for regulating the right to keep and use the same, and to give power of disarming in certain cases), and for other purposes.	The whole.
III of 1872	The Santhál Parganas Settlement Regulation.	So much of the schedule as relates to Act XXXI of 1860 and Act VI of 1866.
IX of 1874	The Arakan Hills District Laws Regulation, 1874.	So much of the schedule as relates to Act XVIII of 1841.
XV of 1874	An Act for declaring the local extent of certain Enactments, and for other purposes.	So much of the first schedule as relates to Act XVIII of 1841.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE.

(*See Section* 8.)

		Rs.	As.
(1)	Fire-arms other than pistols, for each	50	0
(2)	Barrels for the same, whether single or double, for each	30	0
(3)	Pistols for each	15	0
(4)	Barrels for the same, whether single or double, for each	10	0
(5)	Springs used for fire-arms, for each	8	0
(6)	Gun-stocks, sights, blocks and rollers, for each	5	0
(7)	Revolver-breeches, for each cartridge which they will carry	2	8
(8)	Extractors, nippers, heel-plates, pins, screws, tangs, bolts, thumb-pieces, triggers, trigger-guards, hammers, pistons, plates, and all other parts of a fire-arm not herein otherwise provided for, and all tools used for cleaning or putting together or loading the same, for each	1	8
		10	0
(9)	Machines for making or loading or closing cartridges, for each	2	8
(10)	Machines for capping cartridges, for each		

Exception.—Articles falling under the 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th or 10th head of this schedule when they appertain to a fire-arm falling under the 1st or 3rd head and are fitted into the same case with such fire-arm.

D. FITZPATRICK,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

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